



# Bulletin

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VOL. 2005 NO. 511 ♦ USDA Food Ordering & Customer Service (FOCUS) Team Update

## FOCUS Team's School Commodity Update As of July 2005

- ❖ New commodity reimbursement rate has increased to \$0.1750, the increase in entitlement and the estimated carryover figure has been posted in the system and reflected in ECOS.
- ❖ All surveys for meat and poultry have been re-opened (except fajita and breaded chicken) and will close 16 December except for canned meats (closing Aug 31).
- ❖ Due to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter funding constraints and many States exceeding their allocations, we must move some orders to the new fiscal year (later deliveries, Nov 16th to April).  
**(SY entitlement dollars cross over two fiscal years, we only have about 40% of funds available for purchasing for deliveries July 1 thru Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, and 60% for deliveries Nov. 16-June 30. We allocate and must monitor entitlement dollars to States by commodity group across fiscal years).**

### Group B

- ❖ Some bulk cheese orders were moved to the next FY for late November delivery periods.
- ❖ Some Bonus NFD Milk orders for May and June were delayed, expected delivery is during July, and all other commodity buying is on schedule.

### Beef and Pork

- ❖ There is a slight delay with beef and pork invitations due to unapproved vendors and as a result, higher pricing.
- ❖ We are currently using SY05 announcements in order to get the buying started until all vendors are on board.
- ❖ New cooked pork test items include:

Pork patties 2.7 and 1.2 oz  
Pork links  
Pork Crumbles

These items are considered test items. Surveys will be sent to those receiving product. Results will be reviewed and considered for future purchases.

## **Poultry**

- ❖ Turkey buys are on target so far except for turkey hams. We are waiting to see how the next buy goes since those August orders not bought are being re-listed on July 18, 2005 for later deliveries (early September). [Note: We didn't get bids for those destinations).
- ❖ Cut up chicken didn't get bought on the first invitation due to high pricing. However, all were bought recently so the buying is on schedule so far.
- ❖ All other chicken buying is on schedule.

## **Fruit and Vegetables**

- ❖ Currently have pre-surveys out for possible bonus buys on fruit mix and can peaches.
- ❖ Currently working to prepare invitations for apples, can and dry beans, almonds, fresh potatoes, and dry fruit nut mix (trail mix).
- ❖ Next group of surveys will be going out in August which will consist of fresh oranges, grapefruit, pears, and orange juice for deliveries January through April 2006.